

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248903

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, SHUM, UR

SUBJECT: INCREASED INTEREST IN SITUATION OF BAPTISTS -
VLADIMIR HAILO

REF: MOSCOW 15361

1. APPRECIATE VERY MUCH EXCELLENT COVERAGE OF BAPTIST DIS-
SIDENT SCENE AS EXEMPLIFIED BY REF TEL.

2. INTEREST AND CONCERN HERE, BOTH AMONG ORGANIZED RE-
LIGIOUS GROUPS AND PUBLIC AT LARGE, IN SITUATION OF BAPTISTS
IN THE SOVIET UNION HAS STEADILY INCREASED IN THE LAST
SEVERAL MONTHS. THIS MONTH'S ISSUE OF BAPTIST WORLD, ORGAN
OF THE BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE, (BWA), FOR EXAMPLE,
FEATURES AN EXTENSIVE REPORT OF BWA PRESIDENT WONG'S VISIT
TO THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE. THE TONE OF THE
ARTICLE IS UPBEAT, DOWNPLAYING TROUBLES WITH THE SOVIET
REGIME, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, MENTIONS GEORGI VINS AND NOTES
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A "SHORTAGE" OF BIBLES AND HYMNBOOKS. THE SAME ISSUE

ALSO CARRIES AN ITEM REPORTING THE RELEASE OF TEN SOVIET "RELIGIOUS PRISONERS" IN JULY. BWA EUROPEAN ASSOCIATE SECRETARY GERHARD CLAAS IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING "WE KNOW OF A FURTHER 60 TO 70 STILL IN PRISON AT THIS MOMENT." (COPY OF ARTICLES BEING POUCHED EMBASSY AND CONGEN.

3. DEPARTMENT IS RECEIVING STEADY FLOW OF INQUIRIES, BOTH CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC, ABOUT THE SITUATION OF VLADIMIR HAILO, A BAPTIST BELIEVER WHO REPORTEDLY LIVES AT VOROSHILOV-GRADSKAIA OBLAST, SELOKRASNIY LUTCH, SHAKHTA 22-24 BIS, ULITSA SEVERNAIA, 11. ACCORDING IN A STORY MISSIONARY PUBLICATION (WHICH IS GENERATING MUCH OF THE MAIL) HAILO AND HIS FOURTEEN CHILDREN ARE BEING PERSECUTED (JAIL, PSYCHIATRIC CONFINEMENT, LOSS OF JOB) BECAUSE THEY HAVE ASKED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE (DESTINATION UNKNOWN)

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY MAY BE ABLE TO DEVELOP. ROBINSON

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